



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023-2024

Understanding the Past, Building Futures

## **NUU-CHAH-NULTH TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES**

We acknowledge the Traditional custodians of the unceded lands and waters of the Tseshaht and Hupačasath on which we live and work.

We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We respect the cultural strength, knowledge and richness of the Tseshaht and Hupačasath peoples.

We embrace diversity and are committed to working collaboratively with Tseshaht and Hupačasath peoples, organizations and communities.

We acknowledge your right to self-determination and we will stand beside you.





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chris Alemany**  
PRESIDENT

**Pat Kermeen**  
VICE-PRESIDENT

**Kim Babin**  
SECRETARY TREASURER

**Laurie Allen**  
DIRECTOR

**Julie Borina**  
DIRECTOR

**Suzanne Dubé**  
DIRECTOR

**Hugh Fletcher**  
DIRECTOR

**Jennifer Gallic**  
DIRECTOR

**Camilla Rezpa**  
DIRECTOR

**Don Tecson**  
DIRECTOR

## A MESSAGE FROM CHRIS ALEMANY CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Sage Haven Society, I want to thank the entire community for their incredible commitment and support. This year featured another huge moment as we opened *wikšahiqu?ił* (week-sha-hee-cu-ith: "a safe place") to provide an additional step in the journey of rebuilding lives. Again, this was impossible without the support of BC Housing, City of Port Alberni, the provincial government, and the community as a whole. Likewise, the community came out in a big way for Coldest Night of the Year and plans are already afoot for an even bigger event next year.

I must emphasize that we wouldn't be able to do our work without the deep mutual support and respect shared with Tseshaht First Nation, and Hupacasath First Nation.

What drives all of this is the dedication of Sage Haven to the people it serves, and the relationships built with other organizations, funders, government, and individuals. I want to reach out in thanks to our partners in this sector including The Salvation Army, Bread of Life, Canadian Mental Health Association, Port Alberni Shelter Society, Kuu-us Crisis Line Society, Alberni Literacy, Friendship Centre, and many others. We are so lucky to be surrounded by compassionate people working to lift everyone up.

As my term as Chair and member of the Board ends this year, I want to personally thank Ellen, Susan and Carol for their incredible support and work during my time on the Board. Your dedication and guidance make the entire Board better and has certainly helped me be successful in this role. It has been a great honour serving as Board member, Treasurer, and Chair of ACAWS/Sage Haven. The Board is in a strong position with excellent membership, initiative, and ideas for the future and I have no doubt it will continue to lead Sage Haven successfully.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to be part of this incredible organization.

Sincerely,

*Chris Alemany*

## A MESSAGE FROM ELLEN FROOD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This annual report serves as a testament to the work we have achieved and our commitment to creating a safer future for survivors of intimate partner violence and gender-based violence in Port Alberni and surrounding areas. Our Annual Report for 2023/2024 marks another year of tireless dedication to addressing the specific barriers our clients face.

Throughout this year, we have worked to support survivors, identify service improvement, and collaborate with stakeholders across our region. You will see from our program staff reports on the pages that follow the amazing work we do. The statistics of numbers served are a testament to the unwavering support offered by our staff.

Looking back on another busy and successful year, I wish to express my gratitude to the staff, volunteers, donors and Board members of Sage Haven Society for their grace, generosity, and tireless work to extend services to women and child survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence. Their dedication results in meaningful change in the lives of those working to survive and learn to thrive after violence.

It was an exciting year as we finalized the construction of our Second Stage Housing project. With 22 units available, we accepted our first program participants in December 2023. Limited access to affordable housing can trap survivors in abusive relationships due to financial dependence. Economic insecurity can also dissuade victims from leaving abusive situations, as they fear losing their livelihoods or the ability to provide for their children. The intersection of economic pressures and violence underscores the importance of providing comprehensive support that addresses both immediate safety concerns and long-term economic empowerment. Our Second Stage Housing is a key step in how we offer these supports. This would not have been possible without the support from the City of Port Alberni, BC Housing, and our contractor IWDC. For that, we are eternally grateful!

Women hold onto hope, hope that they are loved, hope that the abuser changes, hope that their children will be okay, hope for prosperity, hope for employment, and hope that they can find housing. When women leave, they leave behind not only the abuse but the life they have built. They often come to us with their hopes and dreams shattered. Their life as they know it is gone and the abuse does not end. Many still find themselves managing the situation. They often receive endless text messages, Facebook posts, tweets, and phone calls from the abuser. Police files, MCFD involvement, family and criminal court trials often seem never-ending. Again, hope is all they have, hope that they will be listened to, hope that they will be believed, and hope that they are safe. Sage Haven is a starting place for that safe haven they are seeking.

As we move forward into the next year, we must remain resolute in our dedication to creating a place where violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence is no longer acceptable, adopting a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of violence and harm. Our focus must remain on every statistic representing a life impacted, a survivor seeking hope, and a community striving for safety. Together, with survivor voices at the forefront of our efforts, we can build a future where the fear of violence is replaced with optimism.

Looking at Board activities, I congratulate and thank Suzanne Dube for stepping into the role of Board Chair and acknowledge the work of outgoing Chair Chris Alemany who has been a rock over his three terms – always there when needed with unwavering support. I welcome all new board members and volunteers and thank those who continue to work with us. Without all of you, our work here at Sage Haven Society would be much more difficult.

I say a heartfelt thank you to our staff who make every day possible. Words cannot express my gratitude. All of you have brought wisdom and skills to this difficult work.

In closing Sage Haven is SHELTER...

**S - Support/Safety**  
**H - Hope**  
**E - Equality**  
**L - Love**  
**T - Transformative/Thrive**  
**E - Empowerment**  
**R - Rise up**

Thanks to all for your support and insight! I could not do my work without your contributions.



Executive Director

#### MAYA ANGELOU

She was raped at the age of 8. Her rapist was found guilty, but spent only one day in jail. After he was released, he was murdered. Because of this, she became mute for almost 5 years, believing her "voice killed him."

*"I killed him that man. because I told his name. And, then I thought I would never speak again, because my voice would kill anyone ..."*

Her name was Marguerite Ann Johnson. Later in life, she would change her name . . . to Maya Angelou.

Maya Angelou became a voice for women, a voice for the black community, garnering respect and admiration for her honesty. She would say, *"There is no agony like bearing an untold story inside of you."*

*From a post written by Janaki Kowtha*



## SECOND STAGE HOUSING

Wiiksahiqu?it Second Stage Housing is the newest Program at Sage Haven Society. The name Wiiksahiqu?it translates to "A Safe Place" This program is funded and supported by BC Housing. Second Stage Housing is for women with or without children who are at risk of violence or have experienced violence, and provides a private, secure, and affordable housing where families or single women can live safely and independently for 6 – 18 months.

Second Stage Housing opened in mid-November. Staff worked diligently to prepare the twenty-two units for occupancy. Each unit is furnished and equipped with household items such as kitchenware, bedding, towels, etc. making each unit fully user ready. Participants started to move in by mid-December and are now fully occupied. We currently have twenty-two participants with fifteen children, ten cats and three dogs as we are also pet friendly.

Second Stage Housing has two support staff on site Monday to Friday to offer support and options to participants as needed and can deal with any issues of concern that arise. There is also a maintenance/janitorial worker who oversees and keeps the building and grounds safe and pristine. The Transition House will take calls from participants in the off hours if an issue of urgency arises and will alert the on-call management staff.

Staff create a personal care plan with each participant that helps guide in what training educational opportunities are required. The program will offer training and educational workshops to enhance the participants' wellbeing such as self-esteem, financial literacy and budgeting skills.

I would also like to acknowledge the Coulson Group for their continued support and generosity in supporting the Families and program. Through their generosity, every unit has a television. It was greatly appreciated.

Every new building comes with quirks, so staff were busy within the first three months with deficiency repairs and construction workers in and out. I would like to thank the Second Stage Housing staff, the Transition House staff and the management staff who were on-call for their dedication to our new program and to get it up and running successfully.

CINDY BLAKE  
MANAGER OF HOUSING



## New 22-unit short-term housing development complete for those escaping violence

By Denise Titian / November 21, 2023



Tseshaht Chief Councillor Ken Watts speaks at a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking 22 new transitional homes on Nov. 17 in Port Alberni. The Sage Haven Society is now accepting applications for residents. People are expected to move into their new homes in December. (Sage Haven Society photos)

## TRANSITION HOUSE

Transition House is core funded for eleven beds by BC Housing. We also gratefully receive donations from service organizations and private citizens.

The Transition House supports women and their children who are at risk of violence or have experienced violence, by providing access to safe, secure, and confidential services, including information and supports for decision-making, short-term shelter or housing, referrals to other services and links to affordable housing. All women are eligible for the program services regardless of ethno-cultural background, religious beliefs, physical ability, health, mental wellness, social context, sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Women who were referred to services but did not reside at Transition House are provided initial contact services including an immediate safety assessment, short-term plan for safety, emotional support, and referrals to alternative and appropriate resources.

Transition House is working with our Sexual Assault Response Program (SARP) as a dispatch, when after-hour calls come through for SARP volunteers to attend the hospital with a forensic nurse. Staff is also available to answer urgent issues that come up at Second Stage Housing.

Homelessness is still a huge issue in our community. Low-income families are being priced out of the rental market's rising rates. We are finding that families are more often staying longer than the recommended 30-day program. In our community, the current housing shortage and inflated costs of rentals is the biggest hurdle that clients must face to find safe and affordable housing in our community. This can also deter some women from leaving their abusive situation.

I believe Transition House services and staff make a positive impact on the clients we service by the supports we offer: respecting clients right of choices, brainstorming options with clients to be able to make informed decisions, our pet friendly policy that keeps a client connected with their beloved fur babies, We also make referrals to housing options and support services within Sage Haven Society and community.

Education is ongoing for Transition House staff. By accessing webinars and other free online training, we continue to update skills and knowledge required for the work we do.

I would like to thank our funders, our board members and our Executive Director, Ellen Froot for their dedication and work done so we can offer services to those at risk of violence.

**CINDY BLAKE**  
**MANAGER OF HOUSING**





## ANNUAL STATISTICS

**1,797**

BED STAYS

**977**

ADULT BED STAYS

**829**

CHILDREN BED STAYS

**131**

WOMEN CLIENTS SERVED

**85**

CHILDREN CLIENTS SERVED

**125**

WOMEN & CHILDREN THAT  
WERE ACCEPTED BUT DID  
NOT SHOW UP

**356**

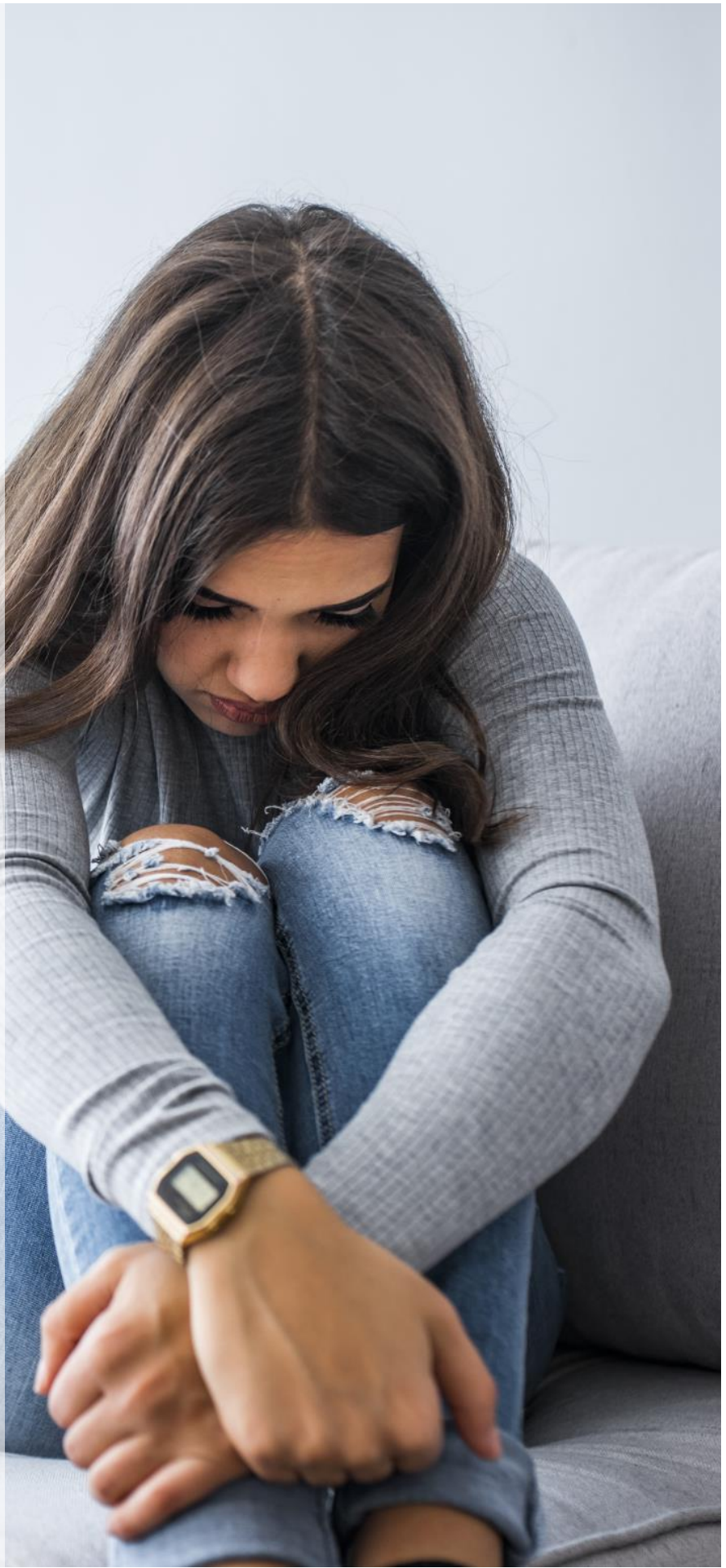
WOMEN & CHILDREN THAT  
WE WERE NOT ABLE TO  
HOUSE AT TRANSITION  
HOUSE

**166**

CRISIS PHONE CALLS

**28**

FULL HOUSE NIGHTS



## ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

As an Administrative Assistant, I find immense inspiration in our clients, whom I regard as true heroes. It's an honor to walk alongside them in their journeys, witnessing their incredible strength, resilience, and empowerment. They exemplify the remarkable capacity to overcome daunting challenges and reshape their narratives.

At the core of administrative assistance lies a steadfast commitment to welcoming and treating every individual who enters our doors with warmth and respect.

Throughout this year, the role of the Admin Assistant has been filled with a myriad of tasks, duties, and responsibilities. A particular highlight has been the continual growth and success of the Coldest Night of the Year event. Together, we achieved a significant milestone, raising over \$50,000. My heartfelt appreciation goes out to all our sponsors, walkers, volunteers, donors, and staff whose collaborative efforts contributed to the event's success. Your generous support enables us to sustain our assistance to clients on their journeys. I eagerly anticipate the next CNOY event on February 22, 2025, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Our presence on social media is expanding, and we actively explore innovative ways to engage with and express gratitude to our community. We've diversified our social media platforms and revamped our website to better cater to our audience's needs.

Additionally, our Administrative Assistant plays a pivotal role in overseeing IT support. In a constantly evolving technological landscape, the demand for IT assistance continues to escalate. With recent changes to our database, there's an upcoming learning and teaching curve.

Beyond these responsibilities, the Administrative Assistant also tackles various other duties as required throughout the week. While this presents both challenges and opportunities, it underscores the versatility and adaptability integral to the role.



CAROL HANSON  
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT





**coldest**  
**\*night**  
OF THE YEAR

**2024**

**468**  
**donors**

**180**  
**walkers**

**\$51,368**  
**amount raised**

**2023**

**369**  
**donors**

**117**  
**walkers**

**\$45,091**  
**amount raised**



## ANNUAL STATISTICS

### TYPE OF OFFENSE REFERRED TO OUR AGENCY

**164**

INTIMATE PARTNER  
VIOLENCE / ASSAULT /  
ABUSE

**50**

SEXUAL ASSAULT /  
EXPLOITATION

**44**

OTHER ASSAULTS/  
CRIMINAL HARASSMENT

**18**

OTHER CRIMINAL  
INCIDENTS

**50**

OTHER (NON-CRIMINAL)

**326**

TOTAL

### CLIENTS BY GENDER

**292**

FEMALE

**34**

MALE

**0**

OTHER

**326**

TOTAL

## COMMUNITY-BASED VICTIM'S SERVICES (CBVS)

Over the course of this past year, Community Based Victim Services has collaborated extensively with numerous service providers to ensure the provision of unique and unparalleled services. Following the Ministry of Justice theme "Power of Collaboration", Victim Services has established comprehensive "wrap-around" supports and services for survivors and at-risk individuals through enhanced relationships with RCMP, Crown, probation, Police-Based Victim Services, MCFD, USMA, MSDPR and numerous other community supports.

Recognizing the power of relationship-building and collaboration, our goal is to provide life-changing support and resources to survivors. Collaboration plays a crucial role in achieving improved outcomes when working with high-risk populations across all age groups and genders.

Throughout 2023-2024, Community-Based Victim Services, in collaboration with crown counsel, the RCMP, and Police-Based Victim Services, successfully provided training to service providers regarding criminal harassment, stalking and safety planning. In March, Victim Services hosted the Parole Board of Canada training with participants from the criminal justice system.

Victim Services contributed to the Alberni Valley Child and Youth Network, attended the IPV Meeting with Justice Personnel, and participated in the Service Provider Roundtable. Additionally, this year I underwent training on strangulation within the realm of intimate partner relationships.

Community-Based Victim Services was involved in a project that involved engaging in discussions with the Ministry of Attorney General to modernize the Family Law Act in order to bring about change within our systems. Additionally, CBVS took part in an investigation and systemic review with the Representative for Children and Youth to address meaningful systemic and structural change.

Community-Based Victim Services in Alberni Valley offers critical incident response, emotional support, practical assistance, and referrals to women, men, youth, and children. These services ensure that victims' voices are heard in the criminal justice system, allowing them have a voice regarding the person who has caused them harm. Additionally, these services provide court orientations, trial and sentencing preparation, accompany victims to interviews with the RCMP and judicial hearings, keep victims updated on the status of investigations and court proceedings, assist with various forms such as Family Law protection orders, victim impact statements, crime victim assistance applications, and victim safety unit, and take third-party reports for sexual assaults while creating safety plans in collaboration with the client.

**SARAH HENSHALL**  
**PROGRAM COORDINATOR**





**“** Your  
abuser’s  
trauma  
does not  
justify the  
abuse. **”**



#### ANNUAL STATISTICS

**393**

INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS  
FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

**125**

INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS  
FOR CAREGIVERS

**118**

REFERRALS RECEIVED

## P.E.A.C.E. PROGRAM

### Children's Supportive Counselling

The PEACE (Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counseling, & Empowerment) program provides individual and group counselling for children and youth between the ages of 3-18 who have witnessed violence and abuse.

The PEACE Program Counsellor uses a psycho-educational approach in their work to achieve the following program goals:

- To support children and youth to feel safe, respected, valued, and heard,
- To support parents/guardians to feel respected, empowered, confident, and effective,
- To support children, youth, and caregivers to develop healthy and respectful ways of connecting with one another,
- To reduce isolation, and let children and youth know that they are not alone,
- To identify and develop safety skills and strategies,
- To support emotional health and self-esteem,
- To view emotions and responses not as pathological, but rather as a natural response to traumatic events,
- To help children and youth identify and manage their emotions,
- To provide strategies to help children and youth cope with and minimize responses, including healthy ways of expressing anger,
- To foster hope by reminding children and youth of their abilities, and how they have used strategies and resistance in the past to successfully cope with adversity,
- To offer reassurance that the child/youth's reactions are natural under the circumstances,
- To provide outreach in schools, focused on violence prevention,
- To develop an understanding of violence against women and girls.

As we reflect on the last year, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to continue our mission of providing compassionate support, guidance, and psychoeducation to the children, youth, and their caregivers within our community.

The 2023-2024 year brought along a unique demographic of clients- "COVID babies". The generation born and raised during the time of the pandemic are now three to five years-old and with them comes not only a talent for adapting to new obstacles but also unique experiences and perceptions of the world around them.

more on next page....

For many, the pandemic manifested in their creative expression. This is where the use of therapeutic expressive arts shines, giving them the language to process overarching themes such as isolation, anxiety, and uncertainty. Mediums such as painting, clay and collage work, sensory sand play, puppet work, and trauma-informed yoga practices all offer a different “language” to express themselves and to work through not only the feelings of being raised during a pandemic, but also the experience of being raised through domestic violence. Learning how to read and understand this “language” and expressions became the most important professional tool I could use this year.

The advocacy of child and youth mental health programs was also a continuing theme for this year. In January, I wrapped up a mentorship group through BCSTH. With a cohort of 16 Transition House Workers across Canada, I mentored them in the importance of creating safe and therapeutic spaces within a transition home as well as understanding trauma and domestic violence through the lens of a child.

I also participated in several discussion tables with the goal of contributing to the recreation of the Violence is Preventable (VIP) program – updating the material to fit the current needs and goals of not just children and youth but the overall BC curriculum. This is an ongoing process and is expected to be released by the end of the year.

As I reflect on the future, I look forward to celebrating the big and small accomplishments of my clients and persistently advocating for more child, youth, and family mental health services within the Alberni Valley. It is services like the PEACE program and others offered by Sage Haven Society that only increase the strength and resiliency of a community.

From the quiet whispers of a child speaking their truth over a therapeutic sand-tray in the playroom, to the excited text messages of a youth blowing up my phone to tell me how they advocated for themselves, each narrative speaks volumes about the strength and effectiveness of the PEACE Program.

CELINE SAUVÉ  
CHILDREN'S SUPPORTIVE COUNSELLOR

“Behaviour is the language of trauma. Children will show you before they tell you that they are in distress.”

— MICERE KEELS







## ANNUAL STATISTICS

**65**

NEW CLIENTS

**28**

INDIVIDUAL GROUP SESSIONS

**283**

INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING  
SESSIONS

**138**

REFERRALS

---

## INCIDENT TYPES

**57**

HISTORICAL ABUSE

**24**

SEXUAL VIOLENCE OR  
EXPLOITATION

**58**

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

**4**

UNKNOWN / OTHER

## STOPPING THE VIOLENCE PROGRAM

### Women's Supportive Counselling

In our Annual Report, we highlight the significant contributions of the Stopping the Violence program at Sage Haven Society. This program provides both individual and group counselling sessions, catering to self-identified women aged 19 and above who have been victims of domestic violence, historical violence, sexual assault, rape, and interpersonal violence.

Our approach to psychoeducational work is rooted in a client-centered, trauma-informed, and feminist perspective, ensuring that each individual's unique experiences and needs are respected and addressed. Through this program, we strive to empower these women, aiding their healing process and helping them regain control over their lives.

Psychoeducation has been found to improve mental health outcomes, empower people with knowledge and tools, decrease stigma, and strengthen support systems.

We owe our ability to provide these critical services to our community to our generous donors. Your contributions, whether they be clothing, food, household items, furniture, or financial support, play a pivotal role in enabling these women to break free from domestic violence. It is because of your unwavering support that we can continue to make a difference. Thank you for standing with us in this important cause.

NICOLE CULINA

STOPPING THE VIOLENCE SUPPORTIVE COUNSELLOR







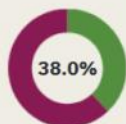
## Children & Youth

### 4835 Number of children and youth

There are just under 5,000 children and youth 19 years and younger in the Alberni Valley. Children and youth comprise 18.8% of the population. Provincially, 19.4% of residents are under 19 years of age. Across Canada, 21.7% of the population is under 19 years old.<sup>1</sup>

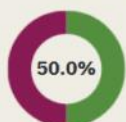
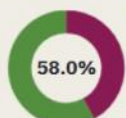
### Vulnerability rate

The latest Early Development Instrument (EDI) data shows that the vulnerability rate has increased, from 32% in 2013-2016 to 38% in 2016-2019. An examination of a child's first five years across five domains (physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognition, and communication) demonstrates that, without additional support, 38% of our youngest children may experience further challenges in both education and society.<sup>14</sup>



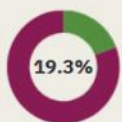
### Adults in the community

The Middle Years Development Instrument asks students in Grade 4 and Grade 7 to reflect on their experiences at school, at home, and in the community. One of the questions queries connectedness, and asks Grade 4 and 7 to assess the quality of the relationships they have with adults in their neighbourhood or community. On this scale, 58% of Grade 4 and 50% Grade 7 students report having a high quality relationship with the adults they interact with in their neighbourhood or community. All responses exceed the provincial average.<sup>5, 6</sup>



### Child Poverty Rate

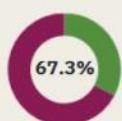
In Port Alberni (Census Agglomeration Area) in 2020, 19.3% of children and youth ages 0-17 years old lived in a low-income family, compared to 29% living in this area in 2017. This decrease is likely linked to temporary CERB benefits and not indicative of long term poverty reduction. Port Alberni still has the highest child poverty rate in the province (by Census Metropolitan Area and Census Agglomeration Area). In British Columbia in 2020, one in eight, or 13.3% of children and youth live in poverty.<sup>73</sup>



### Youth Mental Health



In 2019/2020, when asked to rate their mental health for the Canada Community Health Survey, 67.3% of youth ages 12-17 located in the Central Vancouver Island health services delivery area, which includes the Alberni Valley, rated their mental health as "very good" or "excellent", slightly less than the provincial average of 70.4% and the national average of 70.7%. Overall, there was a decrease in youth who rated their mental health as "very good" or "excellent" from the 2013-2016 Survey.<sup>12</sup>



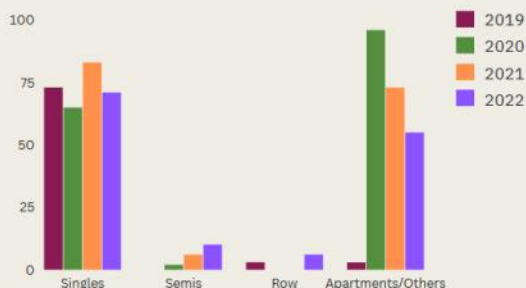
## Housing

### \$520,700 Benchmark home price



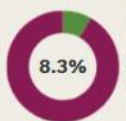
The benchmark sale price of a single-family home in May 2023 in the Alberni Valley was \$520,700 – down 12 per cent from the previous year. On North Vancouver Island, the benchmark price of a single-family home decreased by three per cent to \$414,700.<sup>35</sup>

### 142 New housing units by dwelling type<sup>36</sup>



### Proportion of units requiring major repair

Between 2016 and 2020, the proportion of Alberni Valley housing units requiring major repair decreased from 9.0% to 8.3%. Across the province, there has also been a decrease, from 7.2% in 2016 to 5.8% in 2020.<sup>1</sup>



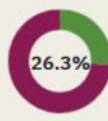
### \$800, \$960 Median monthly shelter costs

Median monthly shelter costs include mortgage or rent payments, electricity, heat, water, and other municipal services. In the Alberni Valley, homeowners pay a median monthly shelter cost of \$800, a 14.1% increase from 2018, while renters pay \$960, a 28.2% increase from 2018.<sup>37</sup>

### Renter households

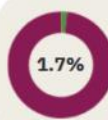


Of the 11,415 households in the Alberni Valley, 3,005 or 26.3% are renter households. This is a negligible decrease, from 26.7% in 2018. The remainder are owned. Provincially, 33.3% of households are renter households.<sup>38</sup>



### Rental vacancy rate

The rental vacancy rate in the Alberni Valley has decreased every year since 2011. It is currently 1.7%. British Columbia's rental vacancy rate is 1.3%, while Canada's is 3.0%.<sup>39</sup>



### 11 Number of beds in women's and children's transition house

There are 11 beds for women and children in the transition house operated by Sage Haven Society and funded by BC Housing. In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the Transition House provided 1,002 bed stays for women and children at risks of or fleeing domestic violence.<sup>40</sup>



## ANNUAL STATISTICS

### SUPPORT FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS

**15**  
FEMALE

**0**  
MALE

**0**  
NON-BINARY

**15**  
TOTAL

---

### SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVOR'S AGE

**4**  
13-18 YEARS

**5**  
19-30 YEARS

**3**  
31-45 YEARS

**3**  
46-60 YEARS

**0**  
60+ YEARS

## SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE PROGRAM

Our Sexual Assault Response Program (SARP) provides crucial support to sexual assault survivors, bridging service gaps and offering direct crisis support. Our team of 15 dedicated volunteers provides 24/7 hospital accompaniment to survivors.

We equip our volunteers with a comprehensive 20-hour training program, ensuring they can offer trauma-informed support from a feminist perspective. This year, we conducted three training rounds, and partnered with North Island College to offer SARP training to Human Service Worker students. Despite the challenge of maintaining volunteer interest due to call volume inconsistencies, our volunteers remain dedicated and passionate. We keep them engaged through regular communication, bimonthly newsletters, and appreciation events.

In the past year, we provided emotional support, safety planning, and guidance to 15 survivors, all female, aged 13 to 60. We are committed to creating a safe and supportive environment for survivors of all genders. As the SARP Coordinator, I'm proud of the essential support we've provided to survivors. The 15 calls we received this year highlight the need for services like SARP.

A highlight from this past year is our collaboration with community. Our Program Coordinator, assisted in the development and delivery of training for West Coast Community Resource's SARP team in Tofino. Collaboration has not only fostered a stronger support network for survivors but has also promoted a more coordinated and comprehensive response to sexual assault within our communities.

Another significant collaboration for SARP was with Good Night Out, an organization dedicated to providing workshops on sexual violence prevention in service industry spaces. One notable achievement of this partnership was the successful workshop with a local brewery. We educated and raised awareness about sexual violence, and focused on what they could do to prevent violence and make safer spaces for survivors.

It's worth noting that only six out of every 100 sexual assault incidents are reported to RCMP (source: Stats Canada 2019). We hope that through community engagement, education, and networking, more survivors will feel comfortable coming forward. We look forward to expanding our program and services to better meet the needs of our community.

**FRANCES WILSON**  
**PROGRAM COORDINATOR**



## ANNUAL STATISTICS

SUPPORTS PROVIDED TO  
CLIENTS

**4,818**

FOOD & CLOTHING PROVIDED

**2,255**

HARM REDUCTION &  
NALOXONE KITS

**954**

REFERRALS / COMMUNITY  
SUPPORT

**1,751**

SUPPORTS PROVIDED TO  
CLIENTS

.....

**9,710**

CLIENT VISITS

## COMMUNITY RESOURCE & DROP IN CENTRE

In 2023, Sage Haven Society Drop-in Centre experienced a significant increase in visitor numbers, nearly doubling compared to the previous year. As we embark on 2024, this trend shows no signs of slowing down. During the past year, the Drop-in Centre achieved a milestone by becoming an official harm reduction distribution center. Additionally, we maintained our partnership with the Farmers Market Program, an initiative we eagerly anticipate continuing this year. Through this program, patrons receive weekly coupons to procure fresh, locally sourced produce throughout the summer and fall seasons. Furthermore, our valued traditions such as Women's Wednesday knitting classes and Thursday art sessions remained vibrant, providing opportunities for storytelling, fostering companionships, and sharing laughter among the participants.

As we reflect on the past year at Sage Haven Society Drop-in Center, we are profoundly grateful for the unwavering support from our local businesses, sororities, churches, and community members. Your generosity has been the foundation of our ability to serve those in need, providing vital resources and hope for brighter futures. Looking ahead to 2024, we are filled with optimism, knowing that with your continued partnership, we can achieve even greater impact. Your trust in us to steward your generosity responsibly is deeply appreciated. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our shared mission; together, we are making a meaningful and lasting difference in our community.

Regrettably, over the past year, Sage Haven Society Drop-in Center has been confronted with the heartbreaking reality of losing several treasured patrons to the persistent opioid crisis. These losses have deeply saddened our community and underscored the urgent need for continued support, resources, and advocacy to address the devastating impact of substance abuse. Each individual loss leaves an irreplaceable void within our center and serves as a reminder of the ongoing challenges faced by those battling addiction. As we mourn the passing of these beloved members of our community, we remain committed to providing compassionate care, support, and resources to all our patrons.

Despite the profound loss experienced due to the opioid crisis, we stand together in solidarity, committed to honoring the memories of those we have lost by expanding on our efforts to support and uplift those still fighting their battles. As we reflect on the challenges of the past year, we also draw strength from the resilience of our community. Moving forward, we will continue to extend compassion to those in need, and to strive towards a future where every individual is valued, supported, and empowered to live their fullest lives. The Drop-in Center remains steadfast in our mission to support all who enter and create a safer more inclusive community for all.

TRACY MELIS | ALEXIS VAN HOUTTE  
PROGRAM COORDINATORS



## ANNUAL STATISTICS

**85**

ADULT WOMEN CLIENTS

**65**

YOUTH CLIENTS

**119**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
HOURS

**1,035**

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT  
SESSIONS

## OUTREACH SERVICES FOR YOUTH & WOMEN

In reflecting upon our journey throughout the year, it's with immense pride and gratitude that we share the narrative of our outreach efforts with youth and women. Within the heart of our mission lies a commitment to growth, nurturing, kindness, patience, support, and transformation. These values have been the guiding stars illuminating our path as we navigated the challenges and triumphs of the past year.

Our annual statistics tell only a fraction of the story. Behind each statistic lies a unique journey, a story of resilience, hope, and empowerment. Our interactions with the 85 adult women and 65 youth clients have been profound, fostering connections that transcend mere numbers.

### **Growth and Nurturing:**

Throughout the year, we've witnessed remarkable growth, both in our clients and within our team. Our programs and support services have provided a nurturing environment where individuals have been able to flourish and thrive. From skill-building to support sessions and safety planning, every interaction has been an opportunity for personal and collective growth.

### **Kindness and Patience:**

Kindness and patience have been the cornerstones of our approach. In moments of uncertainty and vulnerability, we've extended a hand of compassion, offering solace and understanding. Every act of kindness has planted seeds of hope, nurturing the belief that brighter days lie ahead.

### **Support and Transformation:**

Our commitment to support has been unwavering. Whether through one-on-one sessions or community engagement initiatives, we've stood alongside our clients, offering guidance and encouragement every step of the way. In the process, we've witnessed remarkable transformations – individuals overcoming obstacles, discovering their strengths, and embracing their potential.

### **Community Impact:**

Beyond the numbers, our outreach efforts have had a ripple effect within the community. Through collaborative partnerships with service providers, community organizations and schools, we've fostered a sense of belonging and solidarity. Together, we've created spaces where voices are heard, perspectives are valued, and dreams are nurtured.

### **Looking Ahead:**

As we turn the page to a new chapter, we do so with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment. Our journey with youth and women is far from over. In the coming year, we will continue to walk alongside them, offering our unwavering support and guidance. Together, we will continue to sow seeds of hope, cultivate resilience, and empower individuals to write their own stories of triumph.

more on next page....



In closing, we extend our deepest gratitude to all who have been a part of this journey – our clients, volunteers, partners, and supporters. It is through your collective efforts that we have been able to create meaningful change and transform lives. As we embark on the road ahead, let us carry forward the spirit of growth, nurturing, kindness, patience, support, and transformation, knowing that together, we can create a brighter future for all.

**HARRENA GILLIS**  
**ADULT, YOUTH, AND CHILD WORKER**

“When a flower doesn’t bloom,  
you fix the environment in  
which it grows, not the flower.”

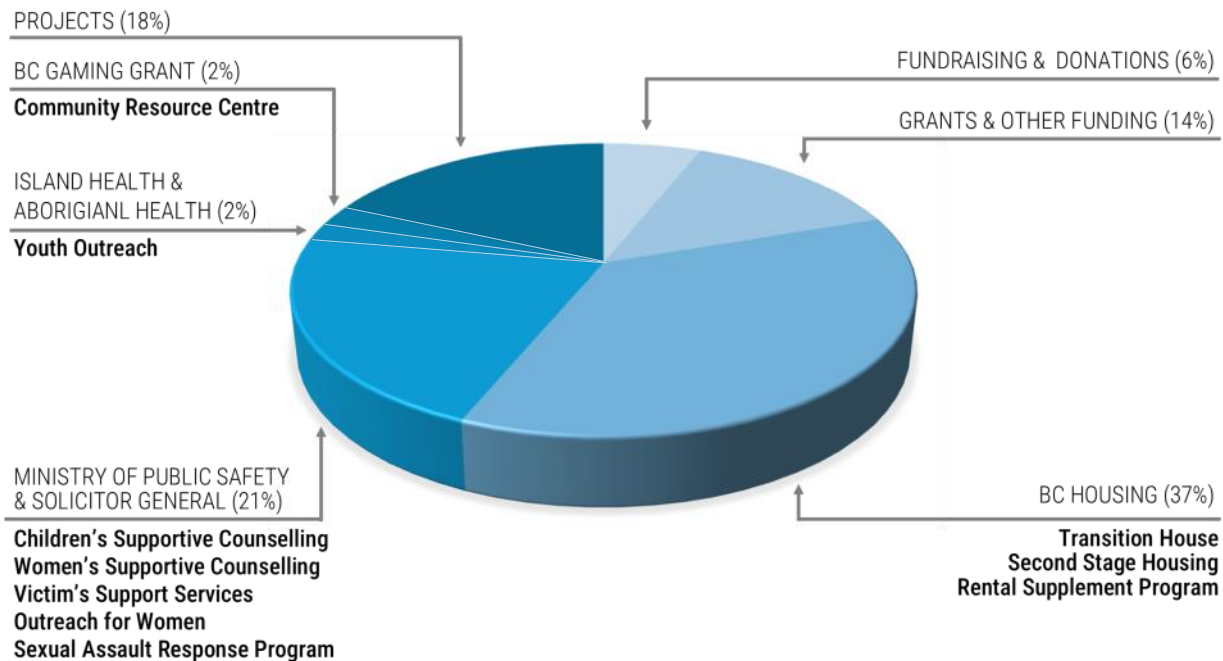
— ALEXANDER DEN HEIJER



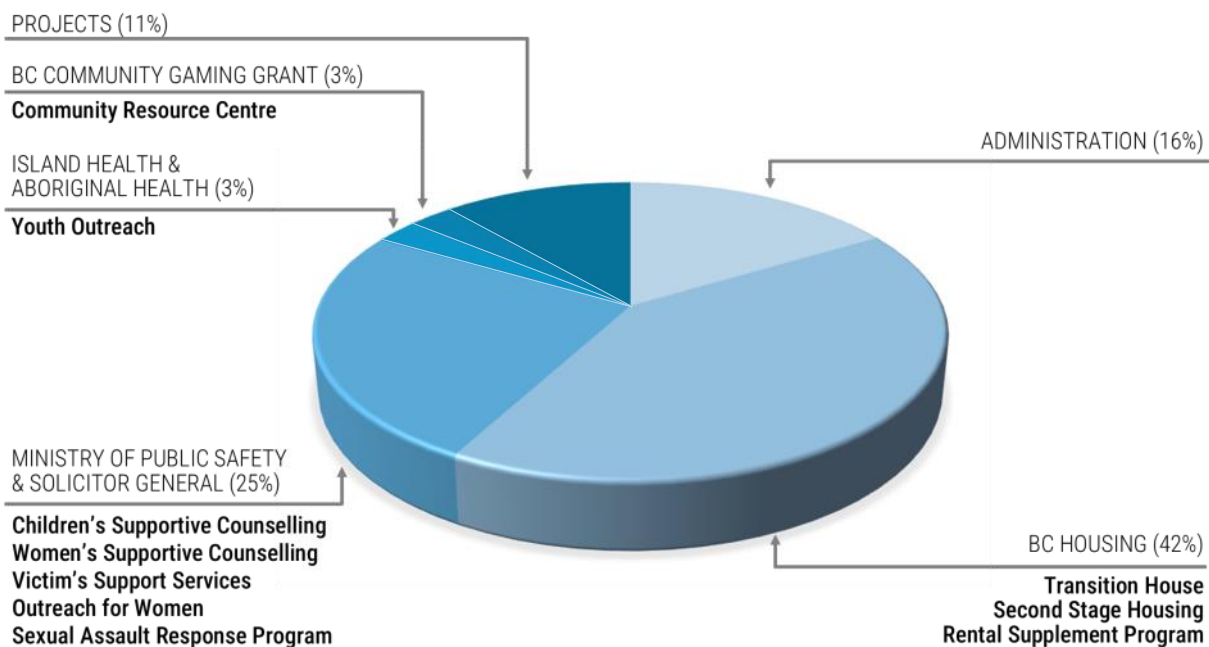
# FINANCIALS

APRIL 1, 2023 TO MARCH 31, 2024

## REVENUE



## EXPENSE



# *Thank You*

BC Housing

Ministry of Public Safety  
& Solicitor General

Island Health ~ Aboriginal Health

BC Community Gaming

City of Port Alberni

Alberni-Clayoquot  
Regional District

Individuals, Businesses &  
Non-profit Organizations





Understanding the Past, Building Futures



3082 - 3rd Ave., Port Alberni BC V9Y 2A5



250-724-7111



[office@sagehavensociety.org](mailto:office@sagehavensociety.org)



[www.sagehavensociety.org](http://www.sagehavensociety.org)